



Reporting Adverse Test Results

If you become aware of an adverse test result or if you observe that your drinking water system is not properly disinfecting your water, you must immediately notify the Medical Officer of Health at your local Public Health Unit and the Ministry of the Environment's Spills Action Centre.

You must post a public warning notice when you had an adverse test result and did not carry out appropriate action specified in the regulation.

When taking corrective action, you may be obligated to notify all users to use an alternate source of water or to boil water for at least one minute before using.

Notices must be posted in a prominent location where it is likely to be seen by those using water from the system. If you fail to do so, a provincial officer or public health inspector may do so.

Sharing Information with the Public

Specific documents relating to the quality of your drinking water, as well as an annual report on the operation of your system, must be made available so that interested persons may read them onsite, free of charge, during normal business hours. Test results, approvals and orders issued must be included.

For more specific details
about how to comply
with the new safe
drinking water regulations,
order your Kit for Regulated
Non-Municipal Drinking Water
System Owners by calling

1-800-565-4923

or by going online at
www.ene.gov.on.ca



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Clean, safe
drinking water
is up to you.





We All Count on Clean, Safe Drinking Water.

Everyone has a stake in clean drinking water. Our families and friends; our clients and customers. Under Ontario's new *Drinking Water Systems Regulation* and its supporting regulations, drinking water system owners and operators now must comply with strict water quality and operating standards. It's part of your responsibility to the people you serve and the community where you operate.

Be Clear About Your Responsibilities

As an owner/operator of a drinking water system, there are a number of requirements you must meet to comply with the regulation. This regulation also affects some systems that were previously unregulated. Your water supply must undergo an independent evaluation. You need to install treatment equipment and routinely sample and test your water. In the event of an adverse test result, the proper authorities must be notified. In order to help you comply, this brochure provides a summary of your responsibilities under the *Drinking Water Systems Regulation*. A more detailed kit is available by calling 1-800-565-4923.

Evaluation

You must ensure that a professional engineer evaluates your drinking water system, and prepares and submits a report to you. An evaluation ensures that you have the necessary treatment equipment and outlines a maintenance schedule for that equipment.

Water Treatment

Once your drinking water system complies with the minimum treatment requirements, a certified operator or trained person must conduct all necessary adjustments to the water treatment equipment and perform all required operational checks.

All large water systems serving residences were affected by the regulation on July 1, 2003. For all other systems, treatment deadlines are as follows:

Who the system serves	Deadlines for water treatment
Designated facilities (schools, health and social care facilities, etc.)	July 1, 2003
Children's camps and non-commercial seniors' residences	July 1, 2004
Non-municipal, year-round residential (mobile home parks, apartments, subdivisions, etc.)	July 1, 2004 (surface water) December 31, 2005 (groundwater)
Large non-residential systems municipal or not, (industrial facilities, resorts, some hotels, etc.)	July 1, 2004 (surface water) December 31, 2005 (groundwater)
Small non-residential systems, municipal or otherwise (restaurants, gas stations, some hotels, marinas, churches, etc.)	July 1, 2005 (surface water) December 31, 2006 (groundwater)
Non-municipal, seasonal residential (campgrounds, cottages, etc. with 6+ hook-ups)	July 1, 2005 (surface water) December 31, 2006 (groundwater)

Depending on your water source (ground vs. surface), you will be required to provide disinfection or filtration and disinfection. You may be able to select from disinfection options including chlorine, ultraviolet irradiation and ozone. The engineer conducting the initial evaluation of your system will be able to fully discuss each option. For exemptions from providing the minimum treatment levels, please consult the Kit for Regulated Non-Municipal Drinking Water System Owners. You can order your free kit by calling 1-800-565-4923.

Testing

Under the regulation, you are required to perform operational checks (such as testing for turbidity or chlorine) and sampling for E. coli, coliforms and heterotopic plate count (HPC); and for chemicals such as PCB's, pesticides and lead. You must ensure that:

- the date/time of operational checks are recorded and
- a qualified operator samples and tests your water for turbidity, and for free or combined residual chlorine, if applicable

You must send your drinking water samples to a licensed lab for analysis. The Ministry of the Environment must receive a written notice indicating the lab that will be testing your water samples.